

ESTABLISHING REARING PONDS AND A FISH HATCHERY IN WESTERN OKLAHOMA, TEXAS, COLORADO, OR KANSAS

JUNE 7, 1956.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State
of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. BOYKIN, from the Committee on Merchant Marine and
Fisheries, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H. R. 221]

The Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, to whom was
referred the bill (H. R. 221) to establish rearing ponds and a fish
hatchery in western Oklahoma, having considered the same, report
favorably thereon with amendments and recommend that the bill do
pass.

The amendments are as follows:

Page 1, line 5, following the word "Oklahoma", insert "Texas,
Colorado, or Kansas,".

Amend the title so as to read: "To establish rearing ponds and a
fish hatchery in western Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado, or Kansas."

The purpose of the bill is to provide additional facilities for the
propagation of warm-water fish in the Texas-Oklahoma-Colorado-
Kansas area. At present the demand for fish stocking is increasing
and the existing Federal hatcheries are so located as to make continued
servicing of the area progressively more uneconomical. State
hatcheries are unable to supply the demand, and the construction
of a new hatchery by the United States will provide necessary facilities
for portions of all four States.

The bill as referred to the committee authorized construction at a
suitable location in western Oklahoma. At the hearing, the Fish and
Wildlife Service indicated that a more suitable location might be
found to service the entire area and accordingly the committee
amended the bill to permit construction in a suitable location in any
of the four States so as to permit the most economical operation of the
facilities.

The departmental reports follow:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D. C., March 22, 1956.

HON. HERBERT C. BONNER,
*Chairman, Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.*

MY DEAR MR. BONNER: Your committee has requested a report on H. R. 221, a bill to establish rearing ponds and a fish hatchery in western Oklahoma.

We recommend that H. R. 221 be enacted, if amended so as to authorize the establishment of the rearing ponds and hatchery in the general region comprising the northwestern Oklahoma Panhandle, western Kansas, and eastern Colorado. The location should be selected, we believe, after careful investigation of the various sites that may be available. This would permit a much larger area to be considered in selecting a hatchery site, which is very desirable. Also, the location of a hatchery in this general area will permit efficient fish distribution to the waters within four States that are not presently being served adequately by Federal hatcheries.

The requirement of the bill that the proposed rearing ponds and hatchery be located in western Oklahoma is inadvisable in our opinion because of the fact that much of western Oklahoma now is receiving adequate supplies of fish from the Federal hatchery at Tishomingo, Okla. There is, however, a definite need for a warm-water hatchery to serve eastern Colorado, western Kansas, and portions of the Texas and Oklahoma Panhandles. Federal warm-water hatcheries located at Santa Rosa, N. Mex., Tishomingo, Okla., and Farlington, Kans., presently are transporting fish over long distances in attempting to meet the fish-stocking requirements of this large area.

We note that section 2 of the bill would authorize appropriations for the purposes thereof, including not to exceed \$250,000 for construction and equipment of the station. We estimate that this establishment will cost approximately \$450,000.

For the foregoing reasons we recommend that the bill be amended as follows:

(1) In the title of the bill, and in line 5, page 1, strike out the words "in western Oklahoma" and substitute in lieu thereof the following: "in the northwestern Oklahoma Panhandle, or in western Kansas, or in eastern Colorado".

(2) On page 2, line 3, strike out the sum "\$250,000" and substitute in lieu thereof "\$450,000".

We have been advised by the Bureau of the Budget that there is no objection to the submission of this report to your committee.

Sincerely yours,

WESLEY A. D'EWART,
Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET,
Washington, D. C., March 20, 1956.

Hon. HERBERT C. BONNER,
*Chairman, Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.*

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This will refer to the request of your committee for the views of this Bureau concerning H. R. 221, to establish rearing ponds and a fish hatchery in western Oklahoma.

It is our understanding that existing fish-hatchery facilities, State and Federal, are inadequate to supply the demand for warm-water fishes, principally for stocking farm ponds, in eastern Colorado, western Kansas, and portions of the Texas and Oklahoma Panhandles.

In a report which the Department of the Interior is submitting to your committee, it is pointed out that western Oklahoma is now receiving adequate supplies of fish from the Federal hatchery at Tishomingo, Okla. The Department, therefore, suggests an amendment expanding the area in which the proposed hatchery may be located. It also recommends an increase in the appropriation limitation, since it has been found that adequate facilities cannot be provided, at present-day costs, within the \$250,000 limitation stated in the bill.

It is our view that fish-hatchery facilities should be provided, insofar as possible by the States. It is recognized, however, that in some areas Federal assistance is needed to provide sufficient fingerlings to stock farm ponds, other water impoundments, and local streams.

You are advised that if H. R. 221 is amended to conform to the recommendations of the Department of the Interior, this Bureau would have no objection to its enactment.

Sincerely yours,

PERCY RAPPAPORT, *Assistant Director.*

There are no changes in existing law.

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